

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): A burner with a plurality of fingers, comprising:
 - a burner head;
 - a base supporting said plurality of fingers around an opening through which gas flows ~~between the interior of a counter top and~~ from a fuel source to said burner head, each of said fingers extending outwardly relative to said opening ~~and with each said finger~~ having an interior that is not in communication with said opening such that, when said base is mounted in a fixed position with respect to a cooktop surface of the counter top, wherein fluid leakage between said base and an interior of the cooktop ~~leakage of fluids between the interior of the counter top and the cooktop surface via flow of fluid through said opening and thereafter through said fingers of said base~~ is substantially foreclosed;
 - said burner head having fingers corresponding in number to said plurality of fingers of said base and having a peripheral wall with a second plurality of ports positioned along both sides of the peripheral wall of each one of said plurality of fingers, said burner head being in communication with said opening of said base for the flow of gas from a fuel source to ~~between the interior of the counter top and~~ said burner head;
 - said second plurality of ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around each of said fingers formed in said burner head and each of said ports formed as a slot in an upper portion of said peripheral wall;
 - a cap having a plurality of overlapping fingers corresponding in number to said plurality of fingers and having a lip extending laterally beyond peripheral wall; and
 - a plurality of flame vents connecting adjacent ports along said peripheral wall.

2. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein each vent includes a recess, formed in said cap, positioned intermediate adjacent ports.
3. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 2 wherein said recess includes an expanded transfer area at an intermediate point between said adjacent ports.
4. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 2 wherein said recess is formed in said cap and bounded by a protruding lip.
5. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein said lip comprises a continuous wall along each said finger.
6. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 5 wherein said lip is scalloped laterally around said wall on an interior side thereof.
7. (currently amended): A burner for a cooktop comprising:
at least one upper member;
a base for mounting said burner in a cooktop, said base supporting said plurality of fingers around an opening defined therein through which gas flows ~~between the interior of a counter top and said upper member to a burner head for ignition and burning thereof~~, each of said fingers extending outwardly relative to said opening and having an interior that is not in communication with said opening such that, when said base is mounted in a fixed position with respect to a cooktop surface of the counter top, wherein fluid leakage between said base and an interior of the cooktop ~~leakage of fluids between the interior of the counter top and the cooktop surface via flow of fluid through said opening and thereafter through said fingers of said base~~ is substantially foreclosed;

said at least one upper member defining at least in part a plurality of ports on each side of a plurality of fingers;

said plurality of ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around each of said fingers and each of said ports formed as a slot in an upper portion of said upper member;

~~a collar carried by said base and said collar including a first plurality of splines projecting from said base adjacent said opening therein around the periphery thereof;~~

~~a stem carried by said at least one upper member and said stem including a second plurality of splines formed around the periphery thereof of a stem carried by at least one upper member; and~~

an indexer carried by at least one of said ~~collar~~ base and said stem limiting insertion of said stem to at least one predetermined alignment, said indexer aligning said at least one upper member in said at least one predetermined alignment with said base, said indexer including a said first plurality of splines ~~around the periphery of said collar~~ and a said second plurality of splines ~~around the periphery of said stem~~, said first plurality of splines ~~around the periphery of said collar~~ and said second plurality of splines ~~around the periphery of said stem~~ interlocking with one another in said at least one predetermined alignment.

8-9 (canceled)

10. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said base includes an igniter element and wherein said predetermined alignment positions said igniter element adjacent one of said ports.
11. (previously presented): The invention as defined in claim 7 wherein said at least one member includes a burner head having said plurality of fingers with a peripheral wall enclosing a gas path and including said plurality of port openings.

12. (currently amended): A cooktop burner comprising:
- a body having a plurality of fingers extending outwardly from a central body portion, said body comprising:
 - a burner head having a central wall, and a peripheral wall on the central wall including a plurality of openings forming ports;
 - said plurality of openings forming ports formed continuously and substantially evenly spaced around said central wall and each of said ports formed as a slot only in an upper portion of said peripheral wall;
 - a base including a head support for said head, and a support for an igniter, said base supporting said plurality of fingers around an opening in said central body portion through which gas flows between the interior of a counter top and said burner head, each of said fingers extending outwardly relative to said opening and having an interior that is not in communication with said opening such that, when said base is mounted in a fixed position with respect to a cooktop surface of the counter top, fluid leakage between said base and an interior of the cooktop ~~leakage of fluids between the interior of the counter top and the cooktop surface via flow of fluid through said opening and thereafter through said fingers of said base~~ is substantially foreclosed and said head support ~~including~~ includes a first indexer including a plurality of splines for limiting insertion of said head to at least one predetermined alignment with respect to said igniter support; and
 - a burner cap including a covering wall positioned over said peripheral wall, a support for carrying said head on said head support, said support including a second indexer for aligning said head at a predetermined alignment with respect to said head support.

13-14 (canceled)